

first and second mating jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position in which they are substantially parallel;

a first elongated electrical conductive member carried by the first jaw member;

a second elongated electrical conductive member carried by the second jaw member;

each jaw including a first portion extending in one direction relative to the handle and a second portion extending in a different direction, the elongated conductive member of each jaw extending continuously along at least one of the jaw portions;

the first and second electrodes being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source.

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4. (Amended) A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:

first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, the jaws being substantially parallel in the closed position; each jaw including an elongated electrode and a curved clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the electrode and curved clamping surface of the other jaw, the elongated electrode of each jaw extending continuously along the jaw and being curved to generally the same curvature as the clamping surface; the curved clamping surfaces of the jaws comprising an insulating material and the face-to-face electrodes being connectible to a power source for

1 *32* providing an electrical current through tissue clamped between the electrodes.

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7. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 in which a curved jaw portion extends between the first and second portions of each jaw and the electrically conductive element of each respective jaw extends along the curved portion of such jaw.

*33* 8. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the jaws are generally pivotally movable relative to each other between the open and clamped position, and the first and second portions of the first jaw lie in a first plane and the first and second portions of the second jaw lie in a second plane, the first and second planes being disposed at an angle in the open position and generally parallel in the clamped position.

9. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1 in which each jaw includes a surface for engaging tissue clamped between the jaws, the facing surfaces of the respective jaws each comprising insulative material, a slot extending through the insulative material along the jaw and the respective conductive member of each jaw being carried in the jaw and conductive of electrical energy through the slot to tissue clamped between the jaws.

10. (New) The apparatus of claim 9 in which the conductive member of each jaw extends through the slot of such jaw.

11. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 in which, when in the clamped position, first portions of each jaw generally lie in one common plane and the second portions of each jaw generally lie in